

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00782 111211Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /106 W

----- 109906

O P 111045Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4555

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO COMICEDEFOR PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF SCHLESINGER'S PRESS STATEMENT IN NORWAY RE
KEFLAVIK BASE

REF: OSLO 2259

1. REFTTEL INDICATES SECDEF SCHLESINGER COMMENTED TO NORWEGIAN PRESS THAT CHANCES AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE KEFLAVIK "VERY SMALL DUE TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE." WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED IMMEDIATELY OF SECDEF'S FULL STATEMENT THIS MATTER AND HOW BEING PLAYED IN NORWAY. WE ALSO SUGGEST USIA MEDIA NOT USE THIS SEGMENT OF PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. IDF RETENTION HAS BECOME NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN ICELAND'S JUNE 30 NATIONAL ELECTION. BECAUSE OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF ICELANDERS REGARDING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THEIR AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY AT ELECTION TIME, AND UPON THE ADVICE OF PRIMEMIN, FONMIN AND PRO-IDF PARTIES AND POLITICIANS, WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF IDF RETENTION ISSUE AND GOI DEFENSE PROPOSALS WITH ICELANDERS AND FOREIGN PRESS WHO ARE IN ICELAND TO COVER THE ELECTIONS, OTHER THAN TO SAY USG IS STUDYING LATEST
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GOI PROPOSALS WITH THE HOPE THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS

CAN BE REACHED. THE CAMPAIGN APPROACH BEING TAKEN BY PRO-IDF INDEPENDENCE PARTY IS THAT GOI AND FONMIN'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN PARTICULAR ARE JEOPARDIZING ICELAND'S DEFENSE. FONMIN TWO DAYS AGO FOUGHT BACK BY STATING HIS PROPOSALS WHICH HE PRESENTED IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL PROVIDE FOR FULFILLING AN OBLIGATION TO NATO AND PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL ASW SURVEILLANCE AND DEFENSE OF ICELAND. TODAY THE COMMUNIST PEOPLES ALLIANCE HAS ENTERED THE FRAY BY ACCUSING FONMIN OF DECEPTION REGARDING IDF, CALLING HIM IN EFFECT LACKEY OF USG WHO WILL CARRY OUT ONLY THOSE MODIFICATIONS WHICH USG WILL VOLUNTARILY PERMIT. COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN ACCUSING USG OF NOT TAKING APRIL GOI PROPOSALS OR THE FONMIN SERIOUSLY AND THAT USG WILL REFUSE TO PULL ITS FORCES OUT OF ICELAND.

3. IF ICELANDIC PRESS PICKS UP THE NEWS CONFERENCE, IT WILL PROBABLY BE IN TOMORROW'S PRESS.
IRVING

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